

STEREOENCEPHALOTOMY (Thalamotomy and Related Procedures) Part I—Methods and Stereotaxic Atlas of the Human Brain. E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Professor of Experimental and Applied Neurology, Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine and H. T. Wycis, M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1952. 176 pages, \$8.00.

This volume summarizes an extensive program of research in a new and rapidly developing field of neurosurgery. The methods and equipment developed serve as the basis for future clinical investigation. There is little doubt concerning the value and great therapeutic possibilities of this method.

The authors have produced a stereotaxic atlas of fundamental importance to those interested in this phase of neurosurgery. This volume is part one of a series. Subsequent parts yet to be published will deal with clinical problems and should prove of greater general interest to the profession.

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DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—Described for Practitioners and Students—7th Edition. F. M. R. Walshe, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 365 pages, \$5.50.

This work is intended to be "a simple textbook adapted to the needs of the student and practitioner," and in this it meets its purpose. It is not all inclusive but deals with those diseases most commonly met in practice and with the methods of treatment and diagnosis which are most useful in the general practitioner's hands. It is lucidly written, avoids complex terminology, and contains no bibliography. Neurologic disorders are presented as fluid states and not as "anatomical moulds."

Of particular value are those sections which differentiate organic from functional features in the history and examination. The author is to be commended upon the repeated stress placed upon the avoidance of producing psychological invalidism by ominous prognoses and restrictions, and of sparing the patient valueless but "traditional" treatments when his resources could be better utilized in other ways.

There are a few questionable points such as failure to consider the place of surgery in the treatment of cerebral aneurysm and the inclusion of psychomotor epilepsy under "post-epileptic automatism," but these detract little from the value of the book.

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PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—An Annual Review—Volume VII—Edited by E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1952. 604 pages, \$10.00.

The bulk of this volume is a tribute to the amount of work which is being done each year in the field of neurology and psychiatry. As must always be the case, the various chapters reflect the personality and ability of the particular author responsible for their compilation, and thus vary greatly in quality. However, the general level is high, and for this reason the reader who would like an encyclopedic view of the whole field and has the staying power to plow through the volume should gain his objective. However, it will be a rare physician who will possess this stamina, and for this reason it is probable that the book is of more value as a reference work. In this regard, the necessary limitations of space are a handicap, so that it must serve the purpose largely of an annotated bibliography, saving the reader the necessity of perusing the more ponderous indexes. It seems to this reviewer that the endeavor to produce a volume that gives the whole picture in a readable form, yet is detailed enough for the specialist, is doomed from the start. The present work has made a valiant attempt at this hopeless task.

LIVING WITH DIABETES—Edward Tolstoi, M.D., Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Fourth Ave., New York 16, 1952. 90 pages, \$2.00.

In this easily readable short (87 pages) book, Doctor Tolstoi presents his views of diabetic treatment to the lay reader. Actually Doctor Tolstoi probably used more words than were necessary since the entire substance of his book is this—take insulin regularly, eat about what you want, and don't worry about spilling sugar.

Whether Doctor Tolstoi is right or not in his assumption only time will tell. However, it is fair to point out that at present he only claims fifteen years' experience in this type of treatment, certainly too short a time to evaluate the eventual evidence of retinitis, arteriosclerosis, etc. Also, it is very disappointing to this reviewer to see the problem of the obese diabetic disposed of in one sentence.

It is obviously impossible in a review to go into the controversial aspects of diabetic treatment. One wishes however that Doctor Tolstoi would present more definite proof of his views before attempting to persuade the public that present-day methods of treatment are entirely unnecessary.

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INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL NEUROLOGY—2nd Edition—Gordon Holmes, M.D., F.R.S. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 189 pages, \$4.00.

It is open to question whether anyone owning a copy of the first edition of this work would profit greatly from purchasing the second, since the changes made have been relatively unimportant. The book is a small one, written in simple language which should be readily understood by the medical student embarking on his study of neurology. Yet it contains the experience of a great master in the field, and can be read with profit by the specialist as well. The objective of the book is to teach the elicitation and interpretation of neurological signs, rather than to describe neurological diseases and their treatment. Thus it in no way presumes to take the place of a neurological text. It is pre-eminent in its field, and can be highly recommended to the medical student, the practitioner who would like to sharpen up his neurological acumen, and most of all the neurologist who at some time had the privilege of making ward rounds with the author.

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DIAGNOSTIC ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY—Hans Strauss, M.D., Associate in Neurology, Mount Sinai Hospital; Mortimer Ostow, M.D., Med.Sc.D., Adjunct in Neurology, Beth Israel Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital; and Louis Greenstein, M.D., Adjunct in Neurology, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1952. 282 pages, \$7.75.

The field for books dealing with electroencephalography has, in the opinion of this reviewer, been pretty well worked out, and might be allowed to remain fallow for a while. The volume under discussion presents nothing that is not already available in standard works on the subject. Certain of the instructions regarding technic would not be agreed to by many workers of experience in the field, yet are set down in a rather dogmatic fashion. This dogmatism is carried into details with which the authors seem obviously unfamiliar. Thus, in speaking of the use of needle electrodes, which are not favored save in "unconscious or restless patients," they recommend the use of eighteen gauge hypodermic needles. Such large needles, suitable for a transfusion, are obviously not to be used as electrodes, so that one wonders how much experience the authors have actually had with needle electrodes.

In spite of such minor discrepancies, the book is an adequate text in the field, and contains good illustrations and an admirable bibliography.